Status of ARIs

2287. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of agro and rural industries in the country when compared to China and the USA;

(b) whether the country is lagging behind these countries in this field; and

(c) if so, the exact details thereof and the concrete steps proposed to be taken therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) has not undertaken any study/survey to ascertain the status of agro and rural industries (in its purview, namely, khadi, village and coir industries) in India in comparison with that of such industries in China and the USA.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of the reply at (a) above.

ARIs in backward districts

2288. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up agro and rural industries in the backward districts of the country during the year 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to help eligible entrepreneurs set up village industry units and thus create employment opportunities in village and small towns with population up to 20,000, throughout the country, including the backward districts. Under this Programme, entrepreneurs can establish village industries by availing

of margin money assistance from KVIC and loans from public sector scheduled commercial banks, selected regional rural banks, cooperative banks, etc., for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh.

A target of assisting establishment of 31,760 village industry units in the country, including backward districts, and thereby help generate 5.90 lakh additional employment opportunities has been set for 2006-07.

(c) Does not arise.

Funds under PMRY

2289. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated and released under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana to the States including Sikkim during the each of the last three years;

(b) the achievements made under this scheme alongwith the employment provided to the youths of the country, State-wise; and

(c) the details of unemployed youths who received funds under this scheme during each of the last three years, State-wise, district-wise specially in Sikkim?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The details of Central grants released to States for entrepreneurial development training, contingencies, etc., during the last three years, *i.e.,* 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) are given in Statement-I (See below). The grants for subsidy to individual beneficiaries under PMRY are routed through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) which in turn passes them on to the implementing banks for crediting the admissible subsidy to the loan accounts of the beneficiaries.

(b) The States/Union Territories, (UT)-wise estimated employment generated under PMRY since its inception in 1993 is at Statement-ll (See below).

(c) Being voluminous, district-wise data of funds disbursed under PMRY is not maintained centrally. State/UT-wise details of funds